

never ceased to be in a large measure constitutional princes. The earlier rulers of the city were nominated by the Exarch of Ravenna, who represented Byzantine authority in Italy; their names are Greek such as Stephanus, Johannes and Sergius. Finally Sergius I, in the middle of the ninth century, was the last to be nominated from Ravenna or Constantinople; from him there descended a line of hereditary dukes which ran to the seventh of the founder's name, and ended three centuries after him.

Ruling a wide *contado* in the islands and mainland, commanding the sea-routes, an outpost of Greek learning and cultivation in the West, Naples was a city at once splendid, vigorous, and wealthy. Yet she was followed close by the more recent Amalfi, which with Naples, with Gaeta, with Terracina formed a chain of cities at once Italian, self-governing, and attached to Byzantium by unofficial bonds. Amalfi too had her *contado* and now tended to gather under her sceptre a little empire of the sea-towns and now saw them follow her own lesson in self-dependence. We can trace from the middle of the ninth century a native dynasty establishing itself in Amalfi with Marinus I., which becomes finally

hereditary
at the end of the tenth century. At first
they call
themselves "imperial prefects"; from
958 they
too become dukes and so last until
1073. Gaeta
again began to have consuls of her
own as early
as 823, and in 872 a certain Docibilis is
found as